

DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: July 2011

1. DESA meeting with the Government of Qatar

As a result of the assistance provided by DPADM/DESA to the Government of Qatar in support of its e-government programme, a delegation headed by Dr. Hessa Al-Jaber, Secretary General, Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology ictQATAR visited DESA over a period of 2 days to explore opportunities for future collaboration. Dr. Al-Jaber met with Mr. Sha, CDO and DPADM. Deliberations between DPADM and Dr. Al-Jaber resulted in a commitment to enter into a long-term capacity building programme focusing on e-government activities between the Government of Qatar and DESA. A team of DESA staff members will travel to Qatar in September 2011 to finalize the project document.

In her meeting with Mr. Sha, Dr. Al-Jaber emphasized the valuable work already undertaken by DESA, through DPADM, in support of Qatar's e-government programme and thanked Mr. Sha for providing advisory services that have enabled the Government of Qatar to develop a more people-centred government strategy. She stated that these advisory services had galvanized other Ministries and Supreme Councils of Qatar to devote greater human and financial resources to the delivery of e-services to its citizens. In addition, Dr. Al-Jaber indicated that the Government of Qatar would be willing to host the 2012 United Nations Public Service Day.

2. Ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting on “Strengthening Public Administration and Leadership for Millennium Development Goals at Local Level”

The establishment of a joint DPADM/DESA and International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) task force was one of the concrete recommendations arising from an Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting (AEGM) on “Strengthening Public Administration and Leadership for Millennium Development Goals at Local Level”, which was jointly organized by DPADM/DESA and IASIA and held in the context of IASIA's annual conference in Rome, Italy from 13-18 June 2011. The AEGM recommended that the joint task force develop standards of excellence for effective public administration in local governments to achieve the MDGs and be part of as well as draw further inputs from the IASIA Working Group on Local Governance and Development. The AEGM also recommended that peer learning and knowledge sharing should be fostered at regional levels to replicate good practices.

The AEGM concluded that channeling financial resources to local governments and capacity building at local level is crucial for deliverance of MDGs and that monitoring systems to guide central governments to monitor progress for local governments and take corrective action in a timely manner are equally important. It further recognized that citizens should be at the centre of achieving MDGs and governments should have clear division of responsibilities, outlining the functions that are delegated or devolved to local governments to ensure accountability for both central and local governments.



3. Collaboration between DPADM and the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)

DPADM and IIAS have established a “Working group to study the interface between public administration and poverty eradication in developing countries”. This working group will enable them follow up discussions and conclusions of a joint-panel they recently organized on Public Administration and Poverty Reduction during the IIAS Congress in Lausanne, Switzerland. The panel discussed the interaction between the conduct of political, managerial, administrative and technical public officials and the planning and implementation of policies and strategies aimed at poverty eradication especially in developing countries. It concluded that public administration is expected to provide conditions under which countries can meet the extreme poverty reduction target established in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), specifically Goal # 1. Such conditions include a) appropriate policy and strategy framework and b) an effective, responsive, ethical, transparent and accountable political, managerial, administrative, and technical, leadership and public service. Also noted was that while it is necessary to provide the requisite financial and material resources to support the implementation of poverty eradication strategies, the availability of financial and material resources alone can not lead to poverty eradication.

4. Expert Group Meeting on “Citizens Engagement to Enhance Public Service Delivery”

Recommendations were made for the undertaking of a comprehensive analysis focusing on the newly emerging collaboration models among states, citizens, non-governmental organizations and the private sector during a DPADM organized Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Citizens Engagement to Enhance Public Service Delivery” held in Vienna, Austria from 7 to 8 July 2011. These recommendations were reached as a result of the lack of empirically grounded comparative research and evaluations on the relationship between citizen engagement and service delivery, particularly on the tangible steps of transparency and accountability initiatives towards improving effective and citizen-centered public service delivery. The objective of the EGM was to take stock of the diverse and innovative participatory approaches implemented across the world to strengthen public sector accountability and prevent corruption in public service delivery towards the achievement of the MDGs. It was attended by forty experts, including members of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), from twenty countries and eight international organizations.

5. Workshop on “Engaging Citizens to Enhance Public Service Delivery and Strengthen Accountability”

At the workshop on “Engaging Citizens to Enhance Public Service Delivery and Strengthen Accountability” that was held in Vienna, Austria from 11 to 13 July 2011 and organized DPADM, forty-four experts, including CEPA members, and practitioners concluded that innovative and more diversified understandings of civil society and grassroots formations must be compiled and examined towards defining the growing role of social accountability processes in the developmental sectors encompassed by the MDGs. The workshop aimed to enhance knowledge and build a shared understanding of what participatory approaches and mechanisms work better than others and under what conditions.



6. UN/INTOSAI Interregional Symposium

The 21st Interregional Symposium on “Effective Practices of Cooperation between Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) and Citizens to Enhance Public Accountability” organized by DPADM and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) in Vienna, Austria from 13 to 15 July 2011 concluded with a reaffirmation of the importance of the independence of SAIs. The symposium examined concrete criteria of audit processes and institutions such as the publication of audit reports in the media, participation of citizens in inter-institutional advisory bodies or councils, and procedural steps to citizen-initiated audits. Representatives of SAIs from eighteen countries in the developed and developing world as well as of INTOSAI and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) participated.

7. A new capacity building project for the Government of Gabon

A new capacity building project, aimed at providing support to the establishment of an effective and participative management of the currently revised Poverty Reduction Strategy will be developed by DESA, through DPADM, UNDP and the Government of Gabon. The partners expressed interest in DESA’s advisory services to improve accountability of Gabon’s Poverty Reduction Strategy, which was drafted in 2006 but has not been implemented effectively because of weak management. The advisory services will also include training for management bodies with practical advice on how to assure a result oriented implementation of the new strategy.

8. European Economic and Social Councils (ESC) express interest to support DESA’s capacity building of African ESCs

The President of the ESC of the European Union and the representative of the ESC of Luxembourg offered to provide support to develop joint activities to support capacity building for ESCs in Africa during discussions held at the Annual Assembly of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) in Rome from 21 to 23 July 2011.

In addition, DPADM and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) will jointly organize a seminar in Morocco next October to assess innovations for participatory multi-stakeholder institutions such as ESCs, to enhance public governance and to further engage citizens in development management.

9. ECOSOC adopts resolution on WSIS extending mandate of CSTD working group

Under item 13(b) on Science and Technology for Development, the Economic and Social Council delegates considered the WSIS follow-up, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, and science and technology at the service of agriculture and water management in Geneva on 26 July. They adopted two draft resolutions and six draft decisions contained in the report of the CSTD on its 14th session by consensus and without amendment. Among other things, the resolution on WSIS follow-up extends the mandate of the CSTD working group on improvements to the IGF for another year and forwards the report of the Secretary-General on enhanced



cooperation to the General Assembly without comment. There was no indication on what sort of action the General Assembly might take on enhanced cooperation at its 66th session.

10. The United Nations e-Government Survey used as a basis for developing the capacity of public administration students at University of Babylon, Iraq

As a result of the information, knowledge and experiences shared by DPADM at the “International Conference on Decentralization and Local Governance: Sharing Experience and Sustaining Progress in Urban Iraq” that was recently held in Jordan, the University of Babylon in Iraq has developed an introductory course on e-government based on the categories, benchmarks and indicators established by the United Nations e-Government Survey for its students of public administration.

11. Launch of training material on human resources management in the public Sector

DPADM has launched online training material in Spanish on Human Resources Management in the public sector (*La gestión de las personas en las organizaciones del sector público*). This training material aims to support the capacity development of senior managers involved in managing human resources in the public sector. Its ultimate goal is to provide tools to facilitate efficiency and integrity within public administration systems and institutions. Please see the Featured Learning Materials page on UNPAN at www.unpan.org/featuredlearning.

12. Lessons Learned Review Mission in Timor-Leste on UN Support to Public Administration and Local Governments in Post-conflict Environments

DPADM’s interregional adviser represented DESA in a joint UN mission in Timor-Leste for lessons learned review of UN support to Public Administration and local governments in post-conflict environments from 23 June to 5 July 2011. The mission held intensive working sessions with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General, UNMIT officials and UNCT representatives and officers. The resulting report will be submitted to the policy committee for consideration.

The mission met with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Economy and Development, the Minister of Finances, the Chairman of Civil Service Commission, and many other top ranking Government Officials including those in charge of anticorruption and responsible for human rights protection.

13. Supervision Mission of Public Administration Reform and Modernization Programme in Togo

DPADM’s interregional adviser undertook a mission to Togo from 10 to 17 July 2011 to supervise the realization process of a Public Administration Reform and Modernization programme that has been executed under DESA technical support since 2009. The outcome from this meeting will enable the Government of Togo and UNDP make appropriate arrangements towards enabling the modernization and reform of public administration in Togo as stipulated in the Government Policy Framework. The project has special focus on the review of civil service legal framework, human resource management, institutional



assessment of ministries and other state institutions, e-administration, coordination efficiency of government functions, appropriate communication channels within public administration and between public administration institutions, development partners, private sector, civil society and citizens.

The IRA engaged in fruitful discussions with Minister of State in charge of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms, the Secretary General of Government and many other government officials as well as the UN Resident-Coordinator and UNDP officers.

14. The Internet Governance Forum USA (IGF-USA)

DPADM participated in the working sessions of the annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum USA (IGF-USA) organized on 18 July 2011, where they were invited to make substantive contribution. Discussions were based on a multi-stakeholder platform to illuminate issues and cultivate constructive discussions about the future of the Internet. IGF-USA serves as a domestic forum in the US to engage civil society, government, technologists, research scientists, industry and academia, helping to create partnerships, coalitions and dialogues that demonstrate best practices and help move policy forward. Participants were also briefed about the 6th annual IGF Forum in Kenya, to be organized DESA in cooperation with the Government of Kenya from 26-30 September 2011.